

COMMUNICATIONS.

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The "Slaughter-house Case."

NEW YORK, June 11, 1873.
To the Editors of the New National Era and Citizen:

SIR: Permit me a second time to call the attention of your readers to the New Orleans "slaughter-house case," and in view of the opinion given by Chas. N. Thomas, Esq., attorney-at-law of your city, wherein he takes an opposite view, concluding that there is no reason to apprehend any injurious consequences to our people as the result of the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in that case. Allow me, briefly as possible, to state the case again, and whence I drew the conclusions in my letter of May 14th, and I hope to show that my fears of ill consequences resulting from the decision in that case were not altogether unfounded, and that Mr. Thomas has not "completely disposed of the hypothetical case" in my letter referred to, when it is found that four dissenting Justices—Chief Justice Chase, Mr. Justice Field, Mr. Justice Swayne, and Mr. Justice Bradley—also shared the same fears of ill consequences to result from the decision of the court. The State of Louisiana granted to a company composed of seventeen persons, known as the Butcher's Benevolent Association of New Orleans, the sole right to carry on the business of slaughtering animals for food for the three parishes of Orleans, Jefferson, and St. Bernard, a territory embracing 1,154 square miles. The company had the sole right to erect slaughter-houses in a certain district below the city of New Orleans. They were to erect—besides other houses—one grand slaughter-house of the capacity to accommodate the business of the parishes, and all persons were guaranteed the right to slaughter their animals on the payment of a certain sum and the yielding up to the company of the head and entrails of the animals slaughtered. The act is entitled "An act to protect the health of the city of New Orleans," &c. Certain butchers, citizens of Louisiana, feeling the injustice of the monopoly which deprived them of their right to pursue their usual business to an advantage, sued before the State courts, and, finally, before the Supreme Court of the United States, claiming their rights, as citizens of the United States, under the recent amendments to the Constitution—the thirteenth and fourteenth—the first of which forbids involuntary servitude; the second confers certain rights on citizens of the United States and protects them in the enjoyment of the same, free from legislative interference. The opinion of the Supreme Court, delivered by Justice Miller, may be briefly stated as follows:

1st. That inasmuch as the act granting exclusive rights to the persons named also compels them to erect a grand slaughter-house, at which all others who wish may slaughter animals at a reasonable price, it cannot be said to interfere with or restrict the rights of the plaintiffs.

2d. That it has ever been conceded as right for a State to grant exclusive rights in order to protect the health of its citizens by regulating and locating slaughter-houses; to restrain the manufacture of gunpowder and other volatile and dangerous articles and pursuits.

3d. That the thirteenth and fourteenth amendments were manifestly made in consequence of the results of the war, which abolished slavery and left many points disputed and unsettled as regards the status of a certain class of persons recently emerged from a condition of slavery.

4th. That the rights which the plaintiffs claimed to have been invaded by the State are not such as come within the original intent and meaning of the acts aforesaid, and are not the rights guaranteed to citizens of the United States.

Now I do not pretend that the decision of the Supreme Court was not strictly in accordance with law; of that I do not pretend to constitute myself a judge; but, considering that four eminent jurists dissented, and in their dissenting opinion give evidence of grave fears of the consequences which may flow, simply as a logical sequence, I hope I shall be pardoned if I give evidence that all my fears are not at once dispelled by the light thrown upon the case by Mr. Thomas, who has so very kindly, and, I may be permitted to say, rather briefly, reviewed the case in answer to my inquiries.

The decision of the Supreme Court, sifted of all the various reasons why, &c., still leaves the fact patent to every understanding man that the monopoly is not denied, but affirmed and upheld; although it was shown in opposition to the health pretense, the great extent of territory, embracing three parishes of 1,154 square miles, of which the city of New Orleans occupies but a fraction, and the fact could not have been granted solely to protect the health of the city of New Orleans. The plaintiffs did not object to the setting aside a certain district, in which the business of slaughtering animals should be done, as has often been done in other States for the protection of the health of cities; but they claimed the right to erect and maintain their own slaughter-houses on the ground so set aside. They claimed that the act embraced country districts, of so great extent and distance from the company's grounds that the business of butchering could not be carried on to same advantage as formerly, and showed plainly that the act was in the interest of the few to the disadvantage of the many.

"And they complain that the business of building, yarding, and keeping within the parishes named cattle intended for sale or slaughter, which was lawful for them to pursue before the 1st day of June, 1869, is made by that act unlawful for any one except the corporation named; and that the business of slaughtering cattle and preparing animal food for market, which it was lawful for them to pursue in the parishes before that day, is made by that act unlawful for them to pursue afterwards, except in the buildings of the company, and upon payment of certain prescribed fees, and a surrender of a valuable portion of each animal slaughtered. And

they contend that the lawful business of land, yarding, sheltering, and keeping cattle intended for sale or slaughter, which they in common with every individual in the community of the three parishes had a right to follow, cannot be thus taken from them and given over for a period of twenty-five years to the sole and exclusive enjoyment of a corporation of seventeen persons, or to anybody else. And they also contend that the lawful and necessary business of slaughtering cattle and preparing animal food for market, which they and all other individuals had a right to follow, cannot be thus restricted within this territory of one thousand one hundred and fifty-four square miles to the buildings of this corporation, or be subjected to tribute for the emolument of that body."

They complain that many of them shall be obliged to give up business in the very remote parts, and they will be confined, involuntarily, to other and less remunerative pursuits. They complain that the State has restricted the slaughtering of animals to a particular district, but that it has set up a company with exclusive rights to do such business in the district named. And this monopoly the Supreme Court of the United States maintains, and just here do I put my particular question. If it is conceded that the State may grant such exclusive rights to companies for a period of twenty-five years, may not other companies be granted sole and exclusive rights to the injury of our people? I quote from the dissenting opinion delivered by Mr. Justice Field, and concurred in by three other of the Justices. He says:

"If exclusive rights of this character can be granted to a corporation of seventeen persons, they may, in the discretion of the Legislature, be equally granted to a single individual. If they may be granted for twenty-five years they may be equally granted for a century, and in perpetuity. If they may be granted for the landing and keeping of animals intended for sale or slaughter they may be equally granted for the landing and storing of grain and other products of the earth, or for any article of commerce. If they may be granted for structures in which animal food is prepared, they may be granted for any of the pursuits of human industry, even in its most simple and common forms. In deed, upon the theory on which the exclusive privileges granted by the act in question are sustained, there is no monopoly in the most edifying form which may not be upheld."

In view of this opinion, with such forcible statements as those I have italicized, I may be pardoned if I still have my doubts whether Mr. Thomas' argument has "completely disposed of my hypothetical case." Mr. Thomas says: "The existence of unjust laws in the Southern States discriminating against the negroes thereof, was the evil to be remedied by the fourteenth amendment, and by it such laws are forbidden," and in the very next sentence he says: "The restraint of trade imposed upon the butchers of New Orleans is not a deprivation of property within the meaning of the law relied upon." Which is really conceding my position in effect, and the reason why I fear the result in the future. For since the Supreme Court has decided that "the restraint of trade imposed upon the butchers of New Orleans is not a deprivation of property within the meaning of the law relied upon," or, in other words: the rights which the plaintiffs claim to have been invaded are not such as are intended to be secured by the amendments to citizens of the United States, not coming within the meaning of the law; then I again ask, what shall prevent our enemies, in other words, creating such monopolies in other trades and business pursuits as will deprive our people of the right to pursue many remunerative occupations which they now pursue and enjoy? Will the Constitution protect the black man where it does not the white? When we apply to the Supreme Court of the United States for protection from such odious and unjust legislation, will it still be its opinion that the States have the right to create such monopolies, and that the rights which we sue for as citizens of the United States are not such as come within the meaning of the law? and will we have to return to the Legislature to redress our wrongs?

If it is answered that in our case the amendments are ample for protection, then I shall not repeat my second question. Have we, colored citizens, certain rights guaranteed to us in the Constitution which are not guaranteed to white citizens? If so, ought we not to call at once for another amendment which shall secure all alike their equal and just rights to pursue any calling allowed to citizens in the several States?

I trust I may not seem over anxious or fearful of the results of this case, when I see my anxiety and forebodings of evil consequences are shared in by Mr. Justice Swayne, who concludes his dissenting opinion in the following words:

"I earnestly hope that the consequences to follow may prove less serious and far-reaching than the minority fear they will be."

At least one other case was lost before the adjournment of the court by the same objectionable line of reasoning as to the protection afforded by the amendments to citizens of the United States, that of Myra Bradwell, plaintiff in error, &c. The State of Illinois. I believe it will be well for our people in the Southern States to keep a watchful eye on all such schemes, and prevent, if possible, the granting of special and exclusive rights to companies, thereby setting a precedent which may be turned to their disadvantage when their enemies are in power.

SAMUEL R. SCOTT, JR.,
Editor of the Mississippi.

VICKSBURG, MISS., June 9, 1873.
To the Editors of the New National Era and Citizen:

Our misfortune in losing the election in this State in 1868 is the cause of our having an election annually for all the important offices. It throws us in the "off year" of all the other States in the Union. Our constitution provides for election of State officers, clerks, and district attorneys quadrennially, and for all other officers biennially. These were elected in 1869, an "off year," and henceforth we shall have to brave our own contests alone and without the benign influence of our sister States, while they are in the midst of theirs.

All parties are weary of these yearly struggles, and our legislators endeavored to remedy the matter during the last session, but they could not agree. The Republicans wanted to amend the constitution as not to have an election again for those officers who hold their positions for four years until 1875, but the Democrats would not agree, as their proposition was to have an election for them in 1870; and as we have not a two-thirds majority in the House, it was impossible to get our bill through, and we would not agree to the proposition of the opposition; so the matter stands as it did, and we are still left in these yearly struggles.

Our contest this year promises to be one of great effort, and all parties have commenced to strain every nerve to carry their point. There is one or two qualifications all parties will insist upon in our next Governor in addition to his Republicanism, and that is, he must be a man of acknowledged ability, and with sufficient courage to carry out the principles of the Republican party in every respect.

In continuing my personnel, I will here introduce my friend,

O. A. DAVENPORT, ESQ.,
the clerk of the Chancery Court of this county. If you can picture to yourself a young man in his twenty-fifth year, small in stature, light brown complexion, expressive eyes, a few scattered grains of hair on his top and on the extreme end of his chin, which he boasts of as a moustache and goatee, rather round shoulders, with a slow and elderly walk, and you will have Mr. D. He was born in the neighboring county of Claiborne, and was removed to this county by his parents during the war. Having to struggle through life for his own maintenance, he has never enjoyed the advantages of a school but for a few months only. What he obtained in that short period has been put to profitable use, and he has made good progress ever since. His ideas generally are clear and matured, and his friendship sincere and manly. He speaks in a spasmodic manner, makes severe and threatening gestures; and when he gets warm over his subject his eyes swell, his veins become full, and every nerve in his body seems to be aroused. He wields a wide influence in the county, and the people would endorse him for almost any position he wishes. We have always worked together in political matters, and doubtless always will. One of the leading Republicans of Adams county is

W. M. MCARY, ESQ.,

the sheriff and tax collector of that county. Whenever a colored officer fills his position acceptably, it not only reflects credit upon himself, but it also brings it upon his people and the party that gave him the position. Mr. McC. has filled the position of sheriff and tax collector of Adams, the county in which the city of Natchez is situated, for nearly two years, and he is now regarded as one of the best sheriffs in the State. This position is one of the most difficult in the State to fill, having to do with the varied duties of the different courts, and the collection of taxes for the county. Mr. McC. is a superior penman, and possesses first-class business qualifications. He is an octopus, can balance two hundred pounds, and is native and to the manner born.

He is exceedingly dignified and aristocratic in his bearing, and opposes strongly any distinction which characterizes the colored people as a different class of American citizens. He opposes all measures which exclude white men with as great earnestness as he opposes all measures which exclude colored men. He is highly respected by all the citizens of his county, both colored and white, Democrats and Republicans. Many of the richest Democrats in his county are on his official bond.

One of the rising young men of this county is no less than the personage of my own deputy,

A. M. DORSEY, ESQ.
Mr. D. is a young man of about twenty-three years of age, and wields a vast influence among the young men of this city. He is short in stature, but finely shaped, and has a head almost as large as his body. He does not boast of having a drop of Anglo-Saxon blood to course through his veins. His educational advantages were obtained in the mission schools taught here by ladies sent down from the North. He can write a fair speech, and delivers it with unusual grace for one of his advantages. And if he continues as he has commenced, he will soon extend his influence beyond the limits of his city and county.

Two years ago while in the heat of the canvass, and while the people were centering upon certain persons for certain positions, I told them in nearly every speech that whatever position I might be selected for I would employ our colored young men as my deputy or clerks. I did this not because of opposition to white young men, but because our colored young men have so few opportunities and our white young men have so many. Two weeks after I was sworn in I employed young Dorsey, and he was sworn in as my deputy. He has been faithful and honest, and has an ever watchful eye to my interests. And as he and a host of other friends in all other counties have an egotistic idea that "Civis" ought to be promoted, he has announced himself as a candidate for the position of clerk of the Circuit Court of this county. I do not doubt but that he will fully succeed, as two years experience in the office has given him a fair knowledge of the business. A few other young men are arrayed against him in the battle, but Mr. D. is not the man to be hoodwinked out of a position which he already partly holds. He is also an alderman from the Second ward of this city, and stands prominently high in the Board.

One of the most successful business men, and still one of the leaders in the Republican party, is

JOHN B. RAYMOND, ESQ.,
of Hinds county. Mr. Raymond, as you are doubtless aware, is one of the owners of our staunch Republican organ, the *Pilot*. He is, in appearance, small, rather stoutly inclined, and has a handsome face. He has somewhat of a cradle walk, but never takes the time to count his steps. In business transactions, in appearance, and in his general deportment, he bears the stamp of a genuine, thorough-going, and refined Yankee. He came here

in 1865 or 1866, was a Justice of the Peace in this county in 1867, and became interested in the *Pilot* in 1868, I think. Under his shrewd and business-like management the paper has risen from a minimum to a mammoth sheet; and while the Legislature is in session it is the largest weekly paper published in the country. Mr. Raymond and his co-partners have had all the odds to contend against in establishing a Republican paper in a Southern city. The Democratic papers in the State brought all the influence they possibly could bring to crush it, but they were woefully disappointed, as their intended served only as profitable advertisements, and the *Pilot* to-day is one of the most successful newspapers in the State. In connection with the paper there is a large book-binding and stationery establishment—as large as some of the largest establishments in St. Louis or Cincinnati, and by far the largest in the State. All of this is due principally to Mr. Raymond's indefatigable energy and business tact. He is as familiar with almost every county of the State as he is with the city of Jackson, the headquarters of his establishment.

The editor of the paper is

T. H. WHIPPLE, ESQ.,
of Hinds county. Mr. Whipple is a man who will measure three feet in height or in breadth! There is a laughable and tricky twig about him while in his editorial chair, so much so that one feels, whenever he calls upon him, that he is getting off a good thing on some of the Democratic editors who have been attacking him in their last issue. He is a perfect match for any editor in the State, and he wields a trenchant pen. The *Pilot* may be regarded always as expressing the sentiments of the Republican party generally in its editorials, except when it disagrees with "Civis." Mr. Whipple at the helm of the editorial chair and Mr. Raymond (as well as Mr. Kimball, of whom I will write soon) at the helm of the business department, and the *Pilot* "will never endanger the vessel's cargo."

Mr. Whipple has had vast experience as an editor, having been on the editorial staff of papers in Chicago and Cincinnati, and on the New York Herald. His connection with the last paper, however, has had no effect upon his political principles, as I believe he has always been a staunch Republican and a true believer in the equal rights of all men. Mr. Wilson is a man of exceeding refinement and finished education, and is an honor to any community in which he may reside.

CIVIS.

Letter from Kansas.

DENVER, June 7, 1873.
To the Editors of the New National Era and Citizen:

Well, another instance has been added to the many reasons for securing, by law, the equal public rights of all citizens of the Republic, without regard to race or color. A pompous individual by the name of John A. Stevens, who supports a gold-headed cane, has just come to this city and opened the "Denver Theater" for the public entertainment, and happened to sell, through his agent, two reserved tickets to two respectable, and so happened very light complexioned, colored citizens—G. Allison and H. C. Hill. Having bought and paid for their tickets during the day they proceeded to the theater in the evening at the proper hour, peaceably and quietly, in common with other citizens, and presented their tickets respectfully for admission. At this juncture of affairs Mr. Stevens appeared and told his door-keeper not to admit "them niggers on them tickets," and in a pompous, insulting, and overbearing manner shook his fist in their faces, and told them that he didn't want them there, "nor any of their kind, and that if they bothered around there again, he would put daylight through them. Moreover," said he, "I don't believe you bought them tickets," and he immediately followed them down to E. J. Sanderlin's elegant barbershop, and went into the bookstore next door, where the tickets had been bought, and asked the salesman if he had "sold tickets to two niggers." He answered in the affirmative. Mr. Hill, who was standing at the barbershop door close by, was then called by Stevens and asked if that was the man who sold him the tickets, pointing to the salesman. Mr. Hill replied in the affirmative. Stevens then said, "He will pay you back your money." Mr. Hill replied that he did not propose to take it. Stevens then, in a menacing manner, told Hill to go to "hell." Hill replied, "You can please go there yourself." Stevens then repeated his threat that if Hill, or "any of his kind" came to the theater again while he was running it, he would put daylight through them." Of course such conduct brought John A. Stevens before Justice Sayer, on the charge of "abusive and obscene language and disturbance of the peace." The charges ought to have been "abusive and threatening language." But these things are always put in the most favorable terms for the white man. The case, however, was pretty well ventilated, and Stevens' witness—his door-keeper—had hard work to tell the truth, but it finally came out. And after the case, which was so clear and transparent in all its aspects, went to the "Justice" for his judgment and to show his learning, he said: "There was no doubt that there were provocations on both sides, and that he would make the fine as reasonable as he could—fifteen dollars and costs."

The abused parties propose to bring suit in the District Court for damages. It was enough to live up to the highest pitch. The righteous indignation of any keenly sensitive, comprehensive mind to see this John A. Stevens, as he sat there at the table of the "Justice," with his feet irreverently cocked up, reading, or pretending to read, a newspaper with as much pomposity and air of indifference as if nothing had happened or was going to happen.

When the trial commenced, he drew himself up to the table in a writing attitude, sharpened his pencil, threw his gold-headed cane full length on the table, and then pretended to be writing short-hand, with the apparent purpose of frightening somebody with his overbearing legal acumen. But as General S. E. Browne arose to the dignity and power of his legal lore in the little that he said, I could plainly discover the gilded plumage of the pompous Stevens fade, droop,

language, and vanish into thin air, as melt away like the iceberg before the summer's sun. Such is ever the power of solid sense over vain, pompous, and superficial pretensions. Oh! how long shall these things be? These outrages, unjust, unkind, and unchristianlike discriminations and indignities to worthy colored citizens, some of whom have done signal and patriotic service in the nation's late great struggle against "all her enemies and opposers whomsoever." Surely these things, of themselves, ought to appeal strongly to our National Legislatures to pass, without delay, the Hon. Charles Sumner's Supplementary Civil Rights Bill. The means are slowly but surely at work to accomplish the end. Mind is ever shaping matter. The free-school system, general education, is the great hope of the future. I would that every colored family in the Republic would faithfully and earnestly inculcate in their children a disposition to acquire knowledge, money, and real power; for knowledge is power; money is power; and real power is power; nor am I less mindful of three other and higher powers—Justice, Morality, and true Religion. And now, that we have an equal chance in the race of life, let us see to it that we make all our energies and movements bend in that direction. Let us take care that none of our people degrade themselves by panders to their own and others' vices. Let us continue to labor for a genuine fraternity among men, and a real equality before the law.

H. O. WAGONER.

The Negro Vote in Virginia.

The Confederate soldiers were never more devoted to the cause of secession nor truer in their devotion to the South than the negro has been to the Republican party.

But will the party get the undivided negro vote in November, is a question that should present itself forcibly to the Republicans of Virginia; and, in order to understand the question propounded, I ask, has the party—that is, its elected and accredited representatives—done justice to the negro? This question is first to be answered, because the negro, in his circles, is debating it. When parties are spoken of in connection with freedom, the negro admits that the Republican party gave him freedom; yet he regards his transition just as we all do that of the Israelites. It was only necessary for a few negroes that might be named to have advocated the claims of Mr. Greeley to have turned the negro vote from General Grant. Particularly in Virginia the tenacity with which Prof. Langston held on to Grant only from throwing their influence into the Greeley scales; they believe that the inexorable decree of God—not God in man—settled the fate of the negro in America, and that he is to enjoy equal civil and political rights with all other men in God's own appointed time. The negro believes that it was He who put it into the hearts of the legislators of New York to pass a civil rights bill that Congress failed to pass. It is fair to conclude that the faith and hope of the negro is fixed in Him who holds the destiny of nations in His hands, and that their acting with this or that party is simply to further their own political aims, as rivaling other races. Ascendancy, then, is the chief object of the negro vote before him. And, if I understood Professor Langston while canvassing this State rightly, we agree that when the solidity of the negro vote fails to obtain that devotion sought for a division at last must ensue. The policy of the Administration lately teaches the negro voters in Virginia the abstract idea of color supremacy, and to which the chosen representatives of the negro attached to the Federal Government lend their every effort and cry to their constituents, it is not time for you to enjoy equal civil and political rights, the white people (old master) will not respect you; yet ignorant white men fill some of the most important Federal positions in the State. These are the views entertained by the intelligent negro in this State, who have seen the negro heretofore voting as directed by their representatives. The negro vote in Virginia has been as solid as anywhere else; he votes against his employer and landlord, the juror, the judge, the press, and the bar. But for no better friends than they, and in many instances against his own elevation, because of prejudice.

The months of Hamilton, Morgan, Stevens, Tassiter, and a host of similar political lights are closed against the elevation of the negro. However, I hope they will soon, like Union Leagues, Olympus, Dupugh, Polaski, and a host of equal right leaguers, join with Boyd, Beckley, Wilson, Carter, and Teammah, in their indictment against the rigors in uprooting the established white man's party in the ranks of the Republican party. That the party in Virginia may become what it is in New York—in favor and practice for equal rights—then, when the party is defeated, it can retreat, as General Anderson's little band did from Sumter, with colors flying—in the gubernatorial election in 1869—one-fifth of the vote being counted for Walker & Co., which defeated Wells and Harris. Our party leaders should not forget this lesson taught them for their inconsistency in advocating, where the negro was strong, the adoption of the clause; where the whites were stronger their rejection. If one-fifth put the State into the Conservative's control in 1869, under the banner of true Republicanism, what will be the result if he runs, as disaffected Republicans are soliciting him to do in November, for Governor? Certainly the greed for office has occasioned a greater disruption in the party than existed at that time, and hundreds of disaffected office-seekers, who voted the Republican ticket then, will not vote it in November; hence the necessity of having the colored vote solid for the party's success.

There is a class of white Republicans who have controlled the negro vote in localities, and who, it is rumored, have pledged it to General Wise, and he has signified his willingness to run on an independent ticket. I am not disposed to over-estimate the power of the disaffected. I trust the gentlemen who have made up the slate, will not General Wise holds an advantage that the negro respects, he is an old Virginia gentleman in the fullest acceptance of that term, against whom nothing can be said that cannot with truth be said about the gentleman

who heads the slate; he belongs to the former ruling class; his word is his bond; the negro respects dignity, and it may be just as hard for the negro to lose respect for this class of men as it for white men to lose their respect for the negro's rights.

Can the party get the negro vote solid against him? In my opinion that depends entirely upon the action of the Federal Administration in recognizing the negro vote of the country and their proper recognition in this State in the dispensing of the patronage. The negro in Virginia is without schools in almost every locality; the schools established by the Walker government are mere shams; he is not allowed to vote in many localities only in a separate ballot-box; nor do he sit in the jury-box; excluded from all those privileges enjoyed by white men, and not an effort made to relieve him of the torture of the whipping-post and chain gangs by his representatives? (No) A negro holds an office in the State by General Grant's appointment, nor under his administration, while the negro vote is to the white Republican vote what ninety is twelve; the party will not get the undivided negro vote if it continues to disregard the wrongs done him. Let the leaders have as much influence with the President as Colonel Mosby, and use it for the good of the whole party, not the party (like the Union army) will gather strength quicker than by playing politics to catch Democrats.

Letter from Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, June 10, 1873.
To the Editors of the New National Era and Citizen:

The annual pilgrimage to the seashore, the mountains, and the mineral springs has already begun, and the gay devotees of fashion, the idle lotus-eaters of society, are already either on the rail or awaiting the departure of some later train.

Imagination has pictured to us a most glorious autumn, and autumn finds us at home again, weary by our toilsome tramp through the sublimity and grandeur of the Yosemite; bewildered and dazzled by the gayety and brilliancy of Saratoga; surfeited by the billing and cooing of the newly-wedded so numerous congregated at Niagara; oppressed with a slight cold, a present from Mount Washington; enthusiastic over the invigorating effects of a drive round Bateman's Point; shuddering at the thought of the rough handling Long Branch's surf accorded us; and awarding Cape May the palm for quietude and comfort.

Alas, however, 'tis all imagination. Autumn has not yet come; Philadelphia still contains us. Fancy but amused us with a dream, which, during its continuance, was pleasurable, and which, though now departed, is not forgotten.

Mr. J. W. Purnell, of this city, is now in Washington on a trip of pleasure, but will, no doubt, forget that fact, and combine business with it by soliciting subscriptions to the stock of the Banneker Hotel Company.

Last Monday was inspection day, and the militia marched forth with all the ardor of those who enlist for a patriotic cause to that part of the park called Landsdowne, there to be reviewed by Major General Prevozt.

The colored troops fought bravely during the day, and on Monday last for numerical supremacy at least, and came near having as many muskets as any other brigade in the division. The eleventh and thirteenth regiments marched well, and made a fine show; the former in their zouave uniforms, and the latter in their swallow-tail coats, tinsel, &c. But the twelfth regiment, under the command of the valiant Colonel McKee, reminded me of those cartoons in Harper's sometime since of the militia of Hayti. It was a motley crew, I'm sure, and almost rivaled the famous troop that Falstaff mustered. The worst feature of a parade here is the *preachment* which the fair sex congregated in the lower portion of our city have for following the "soldiers," as they say. No sun is too hot, nor do they care for the showers of Jupiter Pluvius, nor does distance deter. Their motto seems to be "Semper paratus," and they are ever on hand to keep step to the strains of "That Little German Band"—but then the stigma!

Major Stokely, after having broken up the gambling-houses and policy shops, those infamous sinks, has turned his attention to the amelioration of poor humanity in the lower parts of our city. He made his first visit to Alaska street—it used to be Bedford street, and had a national reputation—about a week since. Amid the squalor and moral depravity that stood out in *relief* much was attributed to a Rev. Mr. Ingot of the A. M. E. church, who owns an \$800 house and gets a thousand dollars per annum rent for it. This house, from cellar to attic, was filled with those who will lie in God's acre, and of all sexes, conditions and colors.

This son of Mammon is never better pleased, except when grinding money from the poor, at rates worse than usury, than when at revival meetings, where he is continually crying, "Go down, go down," and keeps it practically in his every-day dealings. Some years since, when the platform of the street car was the only part colored people were admitted to, a gentleman was coming from the northern part of the city; it was a bitter cold day, and this shylock was riding along. With chattering lips he protested against the injustice of the distinction on the plea that he was the owner of fifty-three houses. Ten years have come and gone, his property has nearly doubled, and with an income estimated at more than one thousand dollars a month, this Galgudim is yet filling his coffers by making scores of human beings mourn. His house, like the owner, is tottering, and "what a fall there will be, my countrymen," and what a grab there will be by that little Tammany, of which he was one, for the spoils. Is this one of the great clerical humanitarians, one of the noble beacon lights by which misguided laymen are to be guided? From ignorance, usury, and hypocrisy, good Lord, deliver us. The newspapers generally have paid the Rev. Weekly Divine their compliments. The conference, it is understood, will investigate this brother's actions, and there is no doubt but that they will consign him to a place beyond the possibility of doing harm to the noble Church—the place of social ostracism. So be it.

Not long ago a certain gentleman, a candidate for the nominating convention for representative from the Sixth district, thought he would have himself serenaded. It was in the papers, advertised, you know, and on the night in question about one dozen of the post office clerks, and double that number of "curious impertinents," assembled at his elegantly furnished mansion to listen to the discussion of the great questions of the day, and to hear the band play as well. They heard neither. The band never plays gratuitously, and the would-be representative is without any of those qualities which made Hayne and Clay and Frederick Douglass great. They did hear, however, the most fulsome bit of speech-making to be conceived of at about ten cents a word; yes, there was about one hundred words, and ten dollars was the amount—from a learned divine and politician. There is nothing like sticking to one's legitimate calling, as Mr. Sumner said to Mr. Stanton, particularly if it is as good as claimed to be.

This district is the richest and most cultivated in Philadelphia, and would demur at the idea of having one charlatan succeed another.

In the phæton at the seashore, thy drag at the park, thy exquisitely furnished parlors, and thy tailor's fitting cut be thou content, but let not thy "vaunting ambition o'erleap itself." And thus runs the verdict of the sensible people of Philadelphia.

On the 6th and 7th instants the Hyers Sisters concert combination gave a concert at one of our largest halls. That they are one of the finest troupes before the community is beyond question, for the *distant* and the general public have so acceded. Like your opera troupe, they met with poor success here, and it is to be deplored that the aesthetic taste claimed by the people of this city did not take a practical turn on these occasions. We cannot account for it. The fact shows for itself that those people who should be the chief motors of encouragement were the ones to absent themselves. The concerted pieces were given with as nice precision and with as fine effect as those of the Boston Quartette. Miss Anna Hyer is a clever artist, and Mr. King's *gloriosa* tenor voice reminded one of Osgood—over whom the critics were unstinted in their praise. They remain here to rehearse, and may they prosper in the future.

S. Morgan Smith, of Philadelphia, has just finished a successful season at the Surrey theatre, London. Mr. Smith is much admired on Aldion's fair shore, and his renderings of such parts as Hamlet, the Stranger, and Gamba in the drama of the Slave, are spoken of by the press of that country as being excellently done. He seems to have merited the success he has everywhere met with, not on account of novelty, as Ira Aldridge had been acting years before, but because of real talent. Mr. Smith has been a disciple of Thespis for six years, at least, and has played altogether in Europe.

Two base ball clubs, the Centennial and the Institute, are contending for supremacy, producing scores that villainous as to run far into the twenties. What of the Alert and Mutual clubs?

Mr. Jacob F. Platt, of Chicago, left for home on Thursday night last. Mr. Platt has been with us nearly four months, and had endeared himself so closely that his leaving was a matter of universal regret.

We understand that Mr. Greener had a very satisfactory interview with some of the representative men here, among whom were Messrs. Whipple, Wear, Needham, Cronwell, and Aldger in relation to the New National Era and Citizen.

The regatta of the Schuylkill navy took place on Saturday last. All styles of shells, barges, gunwales, and outriggers were entered, and myriads of people lined the river's banks to witness the contest.

Hamilton Moore, Esq., has returned from Europe after an absence of thirteen years. Mr. Moore was connected with one of Her Majesty's bands as cornet player. He is a thorough musician, and will prove an invaluable addition to our home musical associations.

R. W. Tompkins, Esq., of Washington, was here on Saturday and Sunday last.

The eyes of the whole country is on that ignorant, prejudiced, behind-the-line State of Delaware. What do you think of the moral insanity of those twelve men who sat as jurors on the West trial?

The commencement exercises at Lincoln University take place on the 17th, 18th, and 19th instants, at Oxford, Pennsylvania. A large delegation from here will be on hand, mostly of the Presbyterian fold. *Non consons.* BAY-N-BAY-N.

Letter from Texas.

GALVESTON, TEXAS, June 6, 1873.
To the Editors of the New National Era and Citizen:

The Galveston Times is dead! It published a fictitious communication on Sunday asking why it published all that stuff about the "New National Era's" scheme—stating that no one wanted to hear it. They replied they did so by request, and promised that I should never more be seen in the columns of the Times. This was prophetic. The Times died with that issue. The establishment of this paper was the boldest piece of impudence I ever heard of. Not satisfied with monopolizing all the offices in the gift of the party, but must start a paper and devote it to the abuse of the negro in order to make it pay! I don't believe in these things in Republicans. There is no paper here now that abuses us, so they thought to reap a rich reward in this line, well knowing they hadn't sense enough to edit a decent newspaper.

P. M. Clark says the ERA published a complimentary notice of his appointment here. You never knew anything about him. A man who writes newspaper notices of himself and gets other persons to copy them, ought to at least keep his mouth shut about them.